



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ZELLARS (DD-777)
FPO NEW YORK 09501

1969

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DD777/RG:rg
5720
14 February 1970

From: Commanding Officer, USS ZELLARS (DD777)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

Subj: Command history; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAV INST 5750.12A 31 Oct 68

Encl: (1) S/S

1. In accordance with reference (a) enclosure (1) is forwarded.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

By direction

1969

COMMAND HISTORY
of
USS ZELLARS (DD 777)

CHRONOLOGY

January 13 - February 21 Zellars participated in Exercise SPRINGBOARD 69 during which time Operational Readiness Exercises were conducted, many of them for competitive score. The ship was operating in the Caribbean Sea with highly favorable weather conditions to all facets of destroyer operations.

May 9 - October 10 Zellars was deployed to the Mediterranean Sea for operations with the United States Sixth Fleet. During this period she underwent the rigors of Condition III steaming, while enjoying the many fine liberty ports.

November 10 - 31 December As a Naval Reserve Training Ship without her Selective Reserve Crew aboard, Zellars made all preparations to initiate a complete, well-rounded, and concise reserve training program.

NARRATIVE

January

1 Inport Newport Rhode Island
3 Inport Davisville at drydock to replace Sonar dome
8 Inport Melville, Rhode Island
13 Underway from Melville to participate in exercise
SPRINGBOARD 69
28 Inport San Juan, Puerto Rico
31 Departed San Juan, Puerto Rico

February

7 Inport Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands
11 Depart Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands
21 Arrive Newport Rhode Island

March Inport Newport Rhode Island

April Inport Newport Rhode Island

May

9 Departed Newport Rhode Island for Mediterranean
Deployment
19 CHOP to Sixth Fleet
20 Arrive Pollensa Bay, Mallorca
20 Depart Pollensa Bay, Mallorca
26 Arrive Valletta, Malta

June

2 Depart Valletta, Malta
10 Arrive Athens, Greece
17 Depart Athens, Greece
26 Arrive San Remo, Italy

July

5 Depart San Remo, Italy
5 Arrive Riva Trigoso, Italy
7 Depart Riva Trigoso, Italy
21 Arrive Naples, Italy
24 Commander Joseph Zable relieved Commander Norbert F.
Walzack as Commanding Officer USS Zellars
25 Depart Naples, Italy
26 Arrive Valletta, Malta

August

10 Depart Valletta, Malta
14 Arrive Palma, Mallorca
23 Depart Palma, Mallorca

September

3 Arrive Valletta, Malta
16 Depart Valletta, Malta
23 Arrive Barcelona, Spain
27 Depart Barcelona, Spain
28 Arrive Pollensa Bay, Mallorca
28 Depart Pollensa Bay, Mallorca
30 CHOP to 2nd Fleet

October

10 Arrive Newport Rhode Island

November

10 CHOP to Administrative and Operational Control of
COMRESDESRON Thirty as Naval Reserve Training Ship
with homeport of Brooklyn, New York
26 Commander Joseph E. Guion relieved Commander Joseph
J. Zable as Commanding Officer, USS Zellars

December Inport Newport Rhode Island

Commander Norbert F. Walzack was Commanding Officer through
July 24th when he was relieved by Commander Joseph J. Zable
at Naples Italy. On November 26th Commander Joseph J. Zable
was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander Joseph E. Guion
at Newport, Rhode Island.

The ship was homeported in Newport, Rhode Island until
November 10th when her official homeport changed to Brooklyn
New York.

Commander Norbert F. Walzack was Commanding Officer thorough July 24th when he was relieved by Commander Joseph J. Zable at Naples Italy. On November 26th Commander Joseph J. Zable was relieved as Commanding Officer by Commander Joseph E. Guion at Newport, Rhode Island.

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The mission of Zellars during the past year has been to maintain the highest state of readiness while performing her peacetime duties in defense of the United States. While participating in Exercise SPRINGBOARD 69 Zellars increased her level of training and readiness to the maximum extent. As a deployed unit to the United States Sixth Fleet, she maintained vigilant readiness at all times, acted as a good will ambassador for the United States, and carried out missions as assigned by Commander Task Force Sixty.

The Officers of Zellars at the end of Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-Nine were:

- a. CDR J. E. GUION
- b. LCDR (b) (6)
- c. LT (b) (6)
- d. LT (b) (6)
- e. LT (b) (6)
- f. LTJG (b) (6)
- g. LTJG (b) (6)
- h. LTJG (b) (6)
- i. LTJG (b) (6)
- j. LTJG (b) (6)
- k. ENS (b) (6)
- l. ENS (b) (6)

END OF COMMAND HISTORY